

President, John Alger
“TACAMO One Tour Wonder”



John came to the TACAMO community through a route that can best be described as “non-standard”. He began his Navy career in 1971 as an AVROC in Pensacola FL. After graduation from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in 1973 with a degree in Aeronautical Science, he completed his officer candidate training and after successful completion of Primary Flight at NAS Saufley Field, was selected for the jet training pipeline. Earning his wings in AUG 1974 he was assigned as an Advanced Jet instructor with VT-24 at NAS Chase Field. In 1976 he moved to the NAS Chase Training Department where he supervised the maintenance and scheduling of the 16 flight simulators. Finally in 1979 he was selected to A-7 transition training at NAS Cecil Field FL. This proved to be unsuccessful, resulting in a change of designator to NFO and in 1980 John reported to VQ-3 in Guam as Aircraft Division Officer. After making the move to Hawaii in 1981 and a stint as Assistant Training Officer, he left active duty departing the squadron in late 1982. He was hired by Burnside-Ott back at NAS Chase as a TA-4J and T-2C simulator instructor and joined the reserves. After a year on the Chief of Naval Air Training staff, John joined VP-94 in New Orleans where he served as Administration Officer and Maintenance Officer. After promotion to O-5, he transferred to the VTU in Pittsburgh, returning to pay status with REDCOM 4 at FT Dix NJ. He retired from the reserves in 1997.

Hired by US Air in 1988, he taught 737-200, International Operations, Airbus A330 and A320, retiring in 2018. While in Pittsburgh John became involved with the US Naval Sea Cadet Corps and the Navy League of the United States. He has served on the NSCC Board of Directors since 2002, eventually becoming Chairman of that organization from 2014 to 2018. He then served as president of the Naval Sea Cadet Foundation until 2020 and then treasurer of the foundation, resigning from that in 2024 to help stand up the TACAMO Foundation. As member of the Navy League for nearly 30 years, John has served as council president for two councils (Pittsburgh PA and Charlotte NC), State President for two states (PA and NC) and a National Director from 1997 to 2018. He is currently recording secretary for the Daytona Beach Council.

After retirement from US Airways/American Airlines in OCT 2018, he and his wife Joan sold their home in Charlotte NC and moved to Ormond Beach FL. He spends his retirement time building models, woodworking, and traveling. He has been a member of TCVA since the 2014 reunion in PAX River.